

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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R 200750Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0247

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, NG, XY

SUBJ: LONG RANGE SAHEL DONOR/BENEFICIARY COORDINATION

PARIS FOR OECD/WILLIAMS

REF\$ A. NIAMEY 1024 (NOTAL); B. NIAMEY 1033 (NOTAL); C. NIAMEY 1045

D. OECD PARIS 6876

1. NOW THAT DAC CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS HAS MADE HIS PRESENTATION
TO CILSS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING (REFTELS), QUESTION
ARISES WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. ALL PLAYBACK WE HAVE RECEIVED
TO DATE INDICATES THAT AT LEAST THREE DELEGATIONS AT CILSS
MEETING (GAMBIA, SENEGAL AND MAURITANIA) WERE FAVORABLY
IMPRESSED AND WANTED TO HEAR MORE AND THAT DAC INITIATIVE
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WAS GENERALLY WELL RECEIVED. NO OPPOSITION WAS VOICED.

AT SAME TIME, AS SEEN FROM NIAMEY, MEMBER STATES OF CILSS ARE BASICALLY INTERESTED IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH DONORS AND THEY PREFER TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH DONORS INSTEAD OF THROUGH CILSS, WHICH MEMBER STATES DO NOT CONSIDER EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION.PA2. GIVEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE REACTION TO WILLIAMS' PRESENTATION, BUT LACK OF ANY DECISION ON NEXT STEPS BY CILSS MEMBERS, SEVERAL POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION OCCUR TO US:

A. OUR MISSIONS IN SEVEN CILSS MEMBER STATES MIGHT FOLLOW UP ON WILLIAMS' PRESENTATION (REF D) TO SOLICIT REACTION AND ENLIST SUPPORT, INCLUDING SUGGESTIONS OF HOW TO PROCEED.

B. AT SOME DATE IN NEAR FUTURE, AFTER DAC CHAIRMAN HAS REPORTED BACK TO DAC MEMBERS ON HIS INITIATIVE, HE MIGHT PROPOSE SCHEDULING OF INFORMAL AND JOINTLY CHAIRED MEETING COMPRISING DAC AND REPRESENTATIVES OF CILSS AND MEMBER STATES. THIS TRIAL BALLOON HAS RISK OF FORCING HAND OF CILSS MEMBER STATES, BUT IF THERE IS PROPAR PRIOR MASSAGING IN EACH CAPITAL, IT MIGHT WORK.

C. ON APRIL 26/27, TECHNICAL DONORS MEETING IS SCHEDULED IN NIAMEY TO DISCUSS FINANCING OF REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER FOR SAHELIAN COUNTRIES IN HYDRO-AGRO-METEOROLOGY. UNDP IS PUTTING UP MILLION AND HALF DOLLARS FOR INITIAL FINANCING OF CENTER AND IS CONTRIBUTING ADDITIONAL TWO MILLION DOLLARS TOWARDS SEVEN PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THIS PROGRAM. SCHEME IS A UNDP INITIATIVE BUT IT HAS ASKED CILSS TO SPONSOR MEETING AND UNDP WILL BE HOLDING CILSS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION. TOTAL COST OF PROJECT IS ESTIMATED TO BE TEN MILLION DOLLARS AND ONE OF PURPOSES OF MEETING IS TO SOLICIT DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THIS AMOUNT. DISCREET WAY TO START DONOR/SAHEL COOPERATION MIGHT BE FOR DAC ON BEHALF OF INDUSTRIAL DONORS TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN MEETING AND ASK IF IT COULD SEND PARTICIPANT. IF HE CAN BRING SOME PLEDGES WITH HIM SO MUCH THE BETTER.

3. ASSUMING WE ARE AGREED THAT DAC IS OUR CHOSEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INSTRUMENT TO CONCERT EFFORTS FOR LONGER TERM, THIRD COURSE OF ACTION DESCRIBED ABOVE SEEMS PRACTICAL WAY TO PROCEED. HOWEVER, WHATEVER WAY WE ENGAGE DAC IN THIS EXERCISE, BELIVE ITS INITIATIVES WILL HAVE TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY US AND HOPEFULLY FRENCH DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT IN SAHELIAN CAPITALS.HECK

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